

REPLY

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 15, 16, and 18-20 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Spector.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-12, 15-21 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Riitano. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9-13, 15-16 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Conard et al. The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4-6, 9-12, 14-16, 18 and 19 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Johnsen et al. The Examiner rejected claims 25 and 27 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hesselgren. The Examiner rejected claims 22-28 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conard et al in view of Spector.

However, the Examiner indicated that claims 29-40 are allowed.

Claims 1-21 have been canceled. Independent claims 22 and 25 have been amended. Independent claim 22 has been amended to recite a low viscosity material to be applied in a dental procedure placed within said slit and an applicator having an applying end adapted to fit within said slit and coated with said low viscosity material.

The material references cited by the Examiner generally relate to the holding or storing of a dental instrument, such as

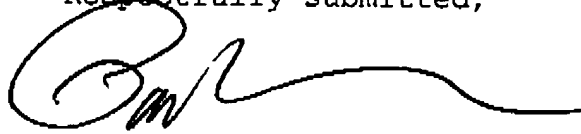
an endodontic file. The use of a disinfecting solution within the container holding the instrument is disclosed. However, the references do not disclose the use of a low viscosity material to be applied in a dental procedure as recited in independent claim 22. There is no teaching, disclosure, or suggestion within the references cited by the Examiner that would suggest the use of a block of pliable material to hold a low viscosity material to be applied in a dental procedure in combination with an applicator.

Independent claim 25 has been amended to more specifically recite that the material is to be dispensed with said applicator onto a surface associated with a dental procedure.

Accordingly, the present invention does not hold or support a dental instrument as disclosed in the prior art cited, but dispenses a low viscosity material contained within the block of pliable material for use in a dental procedure. The present invention makes possible the dispensing of low viscosity material onto a dental instrument used in a dental procedure. Normally, low viscosity dental materials are difficult to apply.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider
the present application and forward the Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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